棉铃虫幼虫脑和咽下神经节的三维结构构建

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摘要:【目的】解剖棉铃虫 Helicoverpa armigera (Hubner) 5 龄幼虫脑和咽下神经节及其内部神经髓形态结构,并分析和构建幼虫脑和咽下神经节以及各神经髓的三维结构模型。【方法】采用免疫组织化学方法解剖脑和咽下神经节的内部神经髓结构,利用激光共聚焦显微镜获取脑和咽下神经节扫描图像,然后利用 AMIRA 三维图像分析软件进行图像分析,从而构建脑和咽下神经节的三维结构模型,并测量脑和咽下神经节以及内部各神经髓的体积,并分析了相对比例。【结果】棉铃虫 5 龄幼虫脑和咽下神经节由围咽神经索连接在一起。脑主要由前脑、中脑和后脑 3 部分组成。前脑内包括视叶、蕈形体和中央体等形态结构较明显的神经髓。此外,前脑还包括其他位于脑的左右两侧以及背侧和腹侧大量神经髓区域,约占脑总神经髓的 59.65%。这些神经髓区域边界不明显。中脑主要包括 1 对触角叶;后脑位于脑的腹侧和触角叶的下方,体积较小。咽下神经节由 3 个神经节融合构成,从前到后分别为上颚神经节、下颚神经节和下唇神经节,由于融合的紧密程度高,3 个神经节间的边界不明显。【结论】阐明了棉铃虫药虫脑和咽下神经节的神经髓形态结构,构建了脑和咽下神经节以及内部神经髓的三维结构模型。三维模型可以任意旋转,能从任何角度观察脑、咽下神经节和内部不同神经髓的结构及其它们之间的空间关系。本研究结果对研究棉铃虫脑和咽下神经节信息接收、处理及调控行为的机制奠定了解剖学基础。

关键词:棉铃虫;脑;咽下神经节;神经髓;三维结构

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Three dimensional reconstructions of the brain and the suboesophageal ganglion of *Helicoverpa armigera* (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae) larvae

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Abstract: [Aim] This study aims to investigate the neuropil structures of the brain and the suboesophageal ganglion in larvae of the cotton bollworm, Helicoverpa armigera (Hübner) and to reconstruct their threedimensional models. (Methods) The immunohistochemistry was used to characterize the anatomy of the brain and the suboesophageal ganglion. The laser scanning confocal microscope was used to acquire the confocal image stacks of the brain and the suboesophageal ganglion, which were subjected to image analysis, and the digital three-dimensional reconstructions were created by the AMIRA software. The volumes of the brain and the suboesophageal ganglion and their neuropils were measured by using the statistic tool of AMIRA software and the relative size was analyzed. [Results] The larval brain and the suboesophageal ganglion are connected by one pair of circumoesophageal connectives. The brain is composed of protocerebrum, deutocerebrum and tritocerebrum. The protocerebrum contains three prominence neuropils, i. e., optic lobes, mushroom bodies and central body. The other neuropils are lateral, ventral and superior protocerebra, which account for 59.65% of the brain neuropils. Their boundary, however, is hard to discriminate. The deutocerebrum mainly consists of a pair of antennal lobes. The tritocerebrum is located in ventral of the brain and under the antennal lobe. Compared with protocerebrum and deutocerebrum, the volume of tritocerebrum is smaller. The suboesophageal ganglion is also a fusion of three neuromeres, i.e., mandibular neuromere, maxillary neuromere, and labial neuromere from anterior to posterior. Their boundaries are obscure. [Conclusion] The neuropils of the brain and the suboesophageal

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ganglion were presented and their digital three-dimensional models were reconstructed. The models can be rotated and viewed at any angle, thus facilitating the identification of the neuropils and their spatial relationships. The results of this study provide knowledge about basic neuroanatomical principles for understanding the mechanisms underlying information processing, integrating and behavioral regulation.

Key words: Helicoverpa armigera; brain; suboesophageal ganglion; neuropil; three-dimensional model

昆虫的化学感受系统在其寄主选择、取食、交配 和产卵等行为中起着重要的作用(Stocker, 1994; Schoonhoven et al., 2005)。鳞翅目昆虫成虫的化学 感受系统主要包括触角、口器附肢、前足、产卵器等 各种嗅觉和味觉器官(Hillier et al., 2006; Olsson et al., 2006; Zhang et al., 2010; Zhang et al., 2011; Heinze and Reppert, 2012; Heinze et al., 2013),而 幼虫主要利用触角、上唇、下颚、下颚须、咽和舌等器 官感受化学刺激 (Albert, 1980; Schoonhoven and van Loon, 2002; Chapman, 2003)。这些器官上存 在一系列化学感器,化学感器内的感受细胞接受各 种化学刺激,并通过神经轴突把刺激信号传递至中 枢神经系统,中枢神经系统再对这些刺激信息经过 整合,然后发出对刺激反应的行为指令(Mitchell et al., 1999; Chiang et al., 2001; Schoonhoven and van Loon, 2002; Wang GR et al., 2004; Wang Z et al., 2004; Marella et al., 2006; Lei et al., 2013)。鳞翅 目昆虫幼虫外周感受器官上的味觉感器的形态、生 理以及感受特征等方面的研究已有诸多报道 (Dethier, 1973; Bernays and Chapman, 2000, 2001; Bernays et al., 2004; Shields, 2009; 汤清波等, 2011;张雪凝等,2011; Zhao et al., 2013)。但是除 了利用钴染色技术对烟草天蛾 Manduda sexta 和日 本柞蚕 Antheraea yamamai 幼虫头部的感觉神经在 中枢神经系统中的投射进行分析外(Kent and Hildebrand, 1987; Asaoka, 2002),鲜有关于鳞翅目 昆虫幼虫中枢神经系统解剖结构的报道。

数字化三维脑模型(three-dimensional digital brain model)是利用特定的扫描装置获取体数据集(volume dataset),经三维分割处理,加上解剖标示再辅以三维可视化技术的结果,是近年来神经科学研究的一个重要手段,其不但具有数字化和可视化的特点,而且能够为脑立体定向相关位点提供解剖和功能参数(Brandt et al., 2005; Kao and Lee, 2012)。随着昆虫神经科学研究的不断深入,昆虫脑模型已经成为研究昆虫解剖学、发育学和化学通讯机制的一个工具。近年来已经建立了果蝇 Drosophila melanogaster (Rein et al., 2002)、西方蜜蜂 Apis mellifera (Brandt et

al.,2005)、沙漠蝗 Schistocerca gregaria (Kurylas et al.,2008),以及鳞翅目昆虫烟草天蛾 Manduca sexta (el Jundi et al.,2009)和烟芽夜蛾 Heliothis virescens (Kvello et al.,2009)成虫的三维脑模型。这些模型的构建为了解这些昆虫神经髓的形成、发育以及深入理解昆虫感受中枢提供了平台。如 Kvello等(2009)描述了2个嗅觉和2个味觉中间神经元在标准脑模型中的精确位置,并发现对蔗糖和奎宁反应的中间神经元在标准脑中的投射位置不同。而烟草天蛾不同发育期的脑三维模型则提供了一系列放置这些发育阶段昆虫各种信息的框架(Huetteroth et al.,2010)。相对于成虫,鳞翅目幼虫不但外部形态特征差异迥异,而且其感受系统的发育、结构和功能与成虫也存在较大的差异。但是,目前还没有鳞翅目昆虫幼虫脑三维结构模型的报道。

棉铃虫 Helicoverpa armigera (Hübner)系我国重要的农业害虫,也是一种典型的多食性昆虫,寄主多达30 余科、200 多种植物,其中包括60 余种作物,常见受害植物包括棉花、水稻、玉米、小麦、烟草和番茄等(Zalucki et al., 1986; Mitter et al., 1993; Wu et al., 2008)。目前,已经有多个关于棉铃虫幼虫外部感受系统形态、电生理和感受特征的报道(Tang et al., 2000; Zhou et al., 2010; 张雪凝等, 2011;曹欢等, 2013)。本研究以棉铃虫5龄幼虫为研究对象,利用免疫组织化学方法、激光共聚焦扫描法和三维模型构建技术,阐明棉铃虫幼虫脑和咽下神经节的结构,并构建其三维结构模型,为深入了解棉铃虫化学感受机制以及昆虫比较发育学的深入研究奠定基础。

1 材料和方法

1.1 供试昆虫

棉铃虫虫源采自河南省郑州市惠济区河南农业大学科教园区烟草田,在室内使用人工饲料(Wu and Gong, 1997)连续多代饲养,室内饲养条件为温度 $27\pm1^{\circ}$,相对湿度 75%,光周期 15L:9D。成虫以 10% (v/v)的蔗糖溶液饲养。

1.2 中枢神经系统解剖和免疫组织化学染色

首先用医学剪刀将棉铃虫5龄幼虫头胸部剪

下,置于 Ringer 氏生理液中,在实体解剖镜下用精细解剖镊子把幼虫的脑和咽下神经节(suboesophageal ganglion, SOG)转移至用磷酸缓冲液(phosphate-buffered saline PBS, 0.1 mol/L, pH7.4)配制的4%多聚甲醛固定液中,室温固定2h。然后用PBS缓冲液连续冲洗脑和咽下神经节4次,每次15 min。冲洗后把脑和咽下神经节置于5%的正常羊血清封闭液(normal goat serum, Sigma, St. Louis, MO)中,室温预孵育3h。

封闭后把脑和咽下神经节置于一抗溶液中,即在含抗突触蛋白抗体 SYNORF1 (Developmental Studies Hybridoma Bank, University of Iowa) PBS 溶液(SYNORF1 浓度为1:100, v/v)中4℃ 孵育5 d。然后 PBS 缓冲液冲洗脑和咽下神经节6次,每次20 min。冲洗后利用荧光偶联的二抗(Cy2 偶联的抗鼠二抗,Invitrogen, Eugene, OR;浓度为1:300)4℃孵育脑和咽下神经节3 d。二抗孵育后,PBS 冲洗脑和咽下神经节6次,每次20 min。然后分别利用50%,70%,90%,96%和100%(v/v)的酒精由低浓度到高浓度对组织脱水,每个浓度脱水10 min,其中100%的酒精脱水2次。脱水后把脑和咽下神经节散在铝制载玻片的孔内,孔上下用盖玻片密封,封片剂为加拿大中性树胶。

1.3 共聚焦显微镜扫描和三维结构重建与分析

用共聚焦激光扫描显微镜(LSM 510, META Zeiss, Jena, 德国)逐层扫描脑和咽下神经节以获得

神经组织图像。扫描时使用氩激光 488 nm 激发光 激发荧光 Cy2。扫描图层间隔 2 或 3 μm。图像分辨率设定为 1 024×1 024。

利用图像分析软件 AMIRA 4.1 (Visage Imaging, Fürth,德国)构建脑和咽下神经节的三维结构。首先将获得的一系列共聚焦激光扫描显微镜图像导入软件,使用软件的分割编辑器"label field"重建脑和咽下神经节以及组织内部各神经髓的结构(Kurylas et al.,2008)。构建时首先使用板刷将每一张二维共聚焦扫描图片上的神经髓区域进行描绘标记,然后转换成多边图形,每一张多边形的边界同相对应的神经髓区域的边界一致,多边图形的像素大小与神经髓区域的相同。最后将同一神经髓的多张多边图形叠加,这样神经髓的三维结构就呈现出来。利用软件 AMIRA的"TissueStatistics"测量和计算获得的脑、咽下神经节以及各神经髓的长度、宽度以及体积。利用 Excel计算体积的平均值、标准差和各神经髓的相对体积,即各神经髓体积大小占脑神经髓的百分比。

2 结果

2.1 脑和咽下神经节的基本结构

棉铃虫 5 龄幼虫头部食道/咽处背面和腹面各有一个神经节,分别为咽上神经节(supraoesophageal ganglion)和咽下神经节。咽上神经节即为脑(brain, Br)。两个神经节由围咽神经索(circumoesophageal connectives, CC)连接(图 1)。使用突触蛋白抗体作

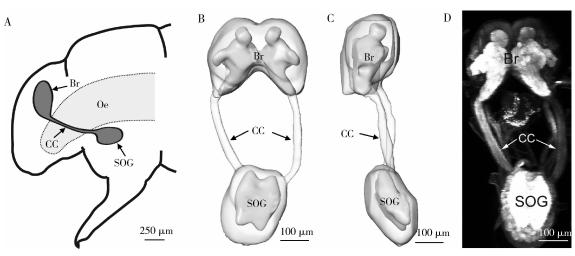


图 1 棉铃虫 5 龄幼虫脑和咽下神经节示意图

Fig. 1 Diagrams of brain and suboesophageal ganglion (SOG) of the 5th instar larvae of Helicoverpa armigera A: 脑和咽下神经节示意图 Diagram of brain and SOG; B,C: 脑和咽下神经节三维模型正面观(B)和侧面观(C)Three-dimensional reconstruction model of brain and SOG in a frontal view (B) and in a lateral view (C), respectively; D: 抗突触蛋白抗体 SYNORF1 免疫染色的脑和咽下神经节共聚焦激光扫描图片 Confocal image of brain and SOG immunostained with the synaptic marker SYNORF1. Br: 脑 Brain; CC: 围咽神经索 Circumoesophageal connectives; Oe: 食管 Oesophagus; SOG: 咽下神经节 Suboesophageal ganglion.

为探针对神经组织进行免疫化学染色标记,清晰显示出神经节主要由神经细胞体层(cell body layer, CBL)和神经髓(neuropil, Ne)构成(图1:D;图2:B~D;图3:B)。神经髓是神经纤维通过突触紧密联系交织成的纤维网,而不同神经髓之间没有突触联系或联系不紧密,所以免疫染色把各脑内不同神经髓清晰地显示出来。

2.2 脑和 SOG 的三维结构重建和体积测量

根据激光共聚焦显微镜扫描脑和咽下神经节获得的多个逐层两维图像,利用 AMIRA 4.1 软件把脑、咽下神经节以及脑内各神经髓的三维结构进行了重建(图2:A,A',A";图3:A)。三维模型可以任意旋转和平移,能从任何角度观察脑、咽下神经节及其内部构造,能够清晰识别不同神经髓结构及其复杂的空间关系(图2:A,A',A")。此外,通过使用软件的测量工具对脑的咽下神经节的扫描图像进行测量,计算出脑、咽下神经节以及各结构的长度和体积;我们也计算出脑内各神经髓相对于脑总神经髓的体积比例(表1)。结果显示,5 龄幼虫脑左右长约409.68±100.89 μm (平均值±标准差;n=3),前后长约239.34±55.80 μm,高度约277.07±73.51 μm,体积约865.2×10⁴±171.63×10⁴ μm³,

表 1 棉铃虫 5 龄幼虫脑和咽下神经节以及脑内各神经髓体积和相对体积

Table 1 The volume and relative volume of neuropils of brain and suboesophageal ganglion (SOG) in the 5th instar larva of *Helicoverpa armigera*

	-	
神经髓	体积(×10 ⁴ μm ³)	相对体积(%)
Neuropils	Volume	Relative volume
右触角叶 Right antennal lobe	3.97 ± 0.82	1.81 ±0.42
左触角叶 Left antennal lobe	3.09 ± 0.69	1.42 ± 0.39
右蕈形体冠 Right calyx	12.9 ± 1.96	5.90 ± 0.92
左蕈形体冠 Left calyx	12.38 ± 1.56	5.67 ± 0.99
右蕈形体叶 Right mushroom body lobe	5.23 ± 1.29	2.37 ± 0.48
左蕈形体叶 Left mushroom body lobe	5.31 ± 1.06	2.41 ± 0.39
中央体 Central body	0.78 ± 0.20	0.36 ± 0.12
右视叶 Right optic lobe	8.62 ± 1.85	3.89 ± 0.48
左视叶 Left optic lobe	7.98 ± 0.35	3.64 ± 0.29
前脑其他神经髓	131.36 ± 15.32	50 65 . 1 51
Other neuronpils in protocerebrum	131.30 ± 13.32	39.03 ±1.31
右后脑 Right tritocerebrum	14.44 ± 2.31	6.56 ± 0.88
左后脑 Left tritocerebrum	13.80 ± 1.48	6.31 ± 0.88
脑神经髓 Brain neuropils	219.88 ± 20.29	100 ± 0
脑 Brain	865.20 ± 171.63	-
咽下神经节神经髓	150 06 10 06	
Neuropil in SOG	150.06 ± 10.86	_
咽下神经节 SOG	510.89 ±95.28	-

表中数据为平均值 ±标准差。相对体积为各个神经髓体积占脑中全部神经髓的百分比。Data in the table are mean ± SD. Relative volume is the percentage of a neuropil volume in the total volumes of the brain neuropils. 脑 Brain, n=3; 咽下神经节 SOG, n=4. -: 未计算 Not calculated.

脑内神经髓的总体积约为 219. 88 × 10^4 ± 20. 29 × 10^4 μ m³。咽下神经节左右长约 205. 85 ± 20. 55 μ m (平均值 ± 标准差; n = 4),前后长约 280. 68 ± 39. 87 μ m,高度长约 181. 35 ± 9. 07 μ m,体积约 510. 89 × 10^4 ± 95. 28 × 10^4 μ m³,咽下神经节内神经髓体积约为 150. 06 × 10^4 ± 10. 86 × 10^4 μ m³。

2.3 脑中神经髓及体积

脑主要由前脑(protocerebrum, PC)、中脑 (deutocerebrum, DC)和后脑(tritocerebrum, TC)3 部分组成。前脑是脑内最大的神经髓。前脑内比较 突出的神经髓有:视叶(optic lobe, OL)、蕈形体 (mushroom body, MB)和中央体(central body, CB) (图2)。视叶2个,位于脑后方两侧,通过单眼神经 与单眼相连。蕈形体也是左右各一个,主要包括:冠 (calyx, Ca)、柄(pedunculus, Pe)和根(root)。 蕈形 体根部位于脑中部前端,分出2个叶(lobes, Lo),即 垂直方向的 α 叶和向中部延伸的 β 叶(图 2: A,B, 体冠位于脑背侧顶部,具有2个杯状结构,杯口朝上 (图2:A",箭头所示)。杯口上面有大量的神经元细 胞体,这些神经细胞为 Kenyon 细胞(图2: D,箭头 所示)。中央体位于脑的正中部,是脑的一个重要 的标志性神经髓(图2)。除视叶、蕈形体和中央体 外,前脑还包括大量神经髓,位于脑的左右两侧以及 背侧和腹侧,约占脑总神经髓的59.65%(表1)。 突出蛋白抗体免疫染色标记结果显示这些神经髓内 部各区域间界限不明显。

中脑,主要包括触角叶(antennal lobe, AL),左右各一个,位于脑前方和前脑的腹侧,球状(图 2: A, B),通过触角神经(antennal nerve)与触角相连。

围咽神经索与脑连接处即后脑,位于脑的腹侧和触角叶下方,左右各一(图2:A,D)。后脑通过围咽神经索与咽下神经节连接。此外,后脑还连接额神经(frontal nerve)和上唇神经(labral nerve)。

2.4 咽下神经节

咽下神经节由 3 个神经节融合构成,从前到后分别为上颚神经节(mandibular neuromere)、下颚神经节(maxillary neuromere)和下唇神经节(labial neuromere),由于融合的紧密程度高,3 神经节间边界不明显。这 3 个神经节分别通过一对上颚神经(mandibular nerve)、一对下颚神经(maxillary nerve)和一对下唇神经(labial nerve)与幼虫口器附肢上颚、下颚和下唇相连接。除了这 3 对神经,咽下神经节还通过左右 2 个围咽神经索分别与 2 个后脑连接。

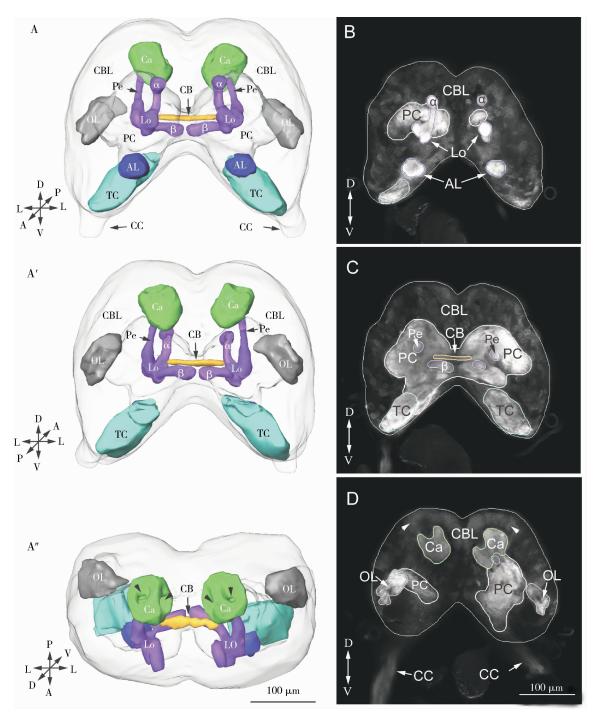
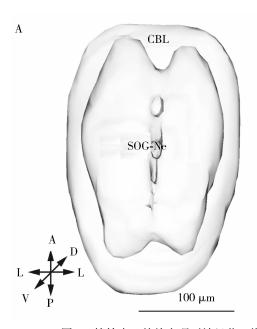


图 2 棉铃虫 5 龄幼虫脑三维重建结构模型和激光共聚焦扫描图

Fig. 2 Three-dimensional reconstruction model and confocal images of brain in the 5th instar larvae of *Helicoverpa armigera* A, A', A'': 脑的三维结构模型 Three-dimensional reconstruction model of the brain. A: 前面观 Frontal view; A': 后面观 Posterior view; A'': 背面观

A, A, A; Mind 三维结构模型 Infee-dimensional reconstruction model of the brain. A; 前面观 Frontal View; A; 后面观 Fosterior View; A; 青面观 Dorsal view. A"中箭头示蕈形体冠桥状体开口 Arrowheads in A" indicate the opening of cup-shaped calyx. B; SYNORF1 免疫染色的脑激光共聚焦扫描图像 Confocal image of brain in a section immunostained with the synaptic marker SYNORF1; C; B 图扫描面后方距离 18 μm 切面的激光共聚焦扫描图像 Confocal image 18 μm posterior to the section of B; D; B 图扫描面后方距离 33 μm 切面的脑激光共聚焦扫描图 Confocal image 33 μm posterior to the section of B, 箭头示蕈形体 Kenyon 细胞 Arrowheads indicate the Kenyon cells. AL; 触角叶 Antennal lobe; Ca; 蕈形体冠 Mushroom body calyx; CB; 中央体 Central body; CBL; 细胞体层 Cell body layer; CC; 围咽神经素 Circumoesophageal connectives; Lo; 蕈形体叶 Mushroom boby lobes; OL; 视叶 Optic lobe; PC; 前脑 Protocerebrum; Pe; 蕈形体柄 Mushroom body pedunculus; TC; 后脑 Tritocerebrum; α; 蕈形体 α 叶 Mushroom body α lobe; β; 蕈形体 β 叶 Mushroom body β lobe. 方位 Directions; A; 前向 Anterior; D; 背向 Dorsal; L; 侧向 Lateral; P; 后向 Posterior; V: 腹向 Ventral.



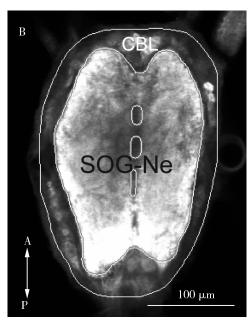


图 3 棉铃虫 5 龄幼虫咽下神经节三维重建结构模型和激光共聚焦扫描图像

Fig. 3 Three-dimensional reconstruction model and confocal image of suboesophageal ganglion (SOG) of the 5th instar larvae of *Helicoverpa armigera*

A: 咽下神经节三维结构模型 Three-dimensional reconstruction model of SOG. B: SYNORF1 免疫染色的咽下神经节激光共聚焦扫描图像 Confocal image of SOG immunostained with the synaptic marker SYNORF1. CBL: 细胞体层 Cell body layer; SOG-Ne: 咽下神经节神经髓 neuropil in suboesophageal ganglion. 方位 Directions: A: 前向 Anterior; D: 背向 Dorsal; L: 侧向 Lateral; P: 后向 Posterior; V: 腹向 Ventral.

3 讨论

Kent 和 Hildebrand (1987)通过钴染色的方法 阐述了 M. sexta 幼虫头部感受神经到中枢神经系统 的神经投射通路,但是局限当时的手段,还不能对其三维结构进行重建。本研究对棉铃虫 5 龄幼虫脑及 咽下神经节的结构进行了分析及三维重建,是首次关于鳞翅目昆虫幼虫中枢神经系统三维结构重建的 报道,并对多头幼虫脑和咽下神经节内的神经髓长度和高度进行了精确的测量,计算了其体积及脑中不同神经髓的相对体积(表1)。

与烟草天蛾 M. sexta (Kent and Hildebrand, 1987)类似,棉铃虫 5 龄幼虫脑和咽下神经节分别位于食道的背面和腹面,由一对围咽神经索连接。幼虫不同于成虫,鳞翅目昆虫成虫围咽神经索消失,脑和咽下神经节紧密融合(Skiri et al., 2005; Huetteroth et al., 2010)。同样,其他全变态发育的昆虫成虫如果蝇、蜜蜂、蝶类及其他蛾类等脑和咽下神经节也融为一体(Berg et al., 2002; Rein et al., 2002; Brandt et al., 2005; el Jundi et al., 2009; Kvello et al., 2009; Heinze and Reppert, 2012)。而蝗虫和蟑螂等不完全变态发育的昆虫成虫,脑和咽

下神经节分别位于食道的上下两侧,也通过围咽神经索连接(Chiang et al., 2001; Kurylas et al., 2008; Wei et al., 2010)。对于其他昆虫幼虫,果蝇 D. melanogaster 幼虫咽下神经节与脑之间也没有明显的界限(Colomb et al., 2007)。所以,鳞翅目昆虫幼虫咽下神经节和脑明显分离的结构对于神经通路和中间神经元等研究提供了便利的材料。

视叶是昆虫的视觉中枢。棉铃虫幼虫视叶位于脑后方两侧(图 2: A, A', A"),通过单眼神经与单眼相连,为一个神经髓结构。而成虫蛾类的视叶分化为视神经节层、视髓和视小叶 3 个神经髓结构(el Jundi et al., 2009; Kvello et al., 2009),这种差别与幼虫只有简单的单眼,而成虫有发达的复眼相对应。研究烟草天蛾脑的发育过程发现视叶的视神经节层、视髓、视小叶在蛹期开始分化形成(Huetteroth et al., 2010)。

蕈形体是昆虫学习和记忆中心。棉铃虫幼虫蕈形体体积较大,约占整个脑神经髓的 16%,远高于烟芽叶蛾 H. virescens 成虫蕈形体占 6%的相对体积(Kvello et al., 2009)。表明棉铃虫幼虫的学习、记忆能力或者可塑性远高于成虫,已经有研究发现棉铃虫幼虫的味觉具有较强可塑性(Zhou et al., 2010;曹欢等, 2013)。幼虫蕈形体冠开口向上,位

于脑的顶端,不同于烟芽叶蛾和烟草天蛾成虫的蕈形体位于脑的后端,并且开口朝后,蕈形体柄与体轴平行(Kvello et al., 2009; Huetteroth et al., 2010)。烟草天蛾幼虫蕈形体根仅具有 α 叶和 β 叶, γ 叶进入蛹期后才开始形成,在蛹期发育过程中,蕈形体朝向逐渐变化(Huetteroth et al., 2010)。

中央体是昆虫运动定向中心,棉铃虫幼虫中央体体积百分比(0.36%)远小于烟芽夜蛾成虫(3.05%),而烟芽夜蛾成虫中央体还可以明显分为上下2个结构(Kvello et al., 2009; Huetteroth et al., 2010)。这种成虫和幼虫之间的差异也与幼虫运动能力弱,而成虫运动能力强相一致。前脑内除了视叶、蕈形体、中央体3个较易识别的神经髓外,还存在其他结构,位于脑的左右两侧、背侧和腹侧,这些结构之间界限不明显。前脑神经髓是脑视觉、嗅觉、味觉等各种感觉的高级中枢,各种感觉信息在这里整合,并形成行为指令,通过下传神经元传递至运动神经元(Lofaldli et al., 2012; Lei et al., 2013)。

触角叶是昆虫的嗅觉中枢,为中脑的主要结构。幼虫触角叶又称为幼虫触角中心(larval antennal center)。烟草天蛾 5 龄幼虫触角叶内没有嗅小球(glomerulus),在蛹期第 5 天才出现嗅小球的模糊雏形,蛹期第 9 天才可以分辨出单一的嗅小球(Huetteroth et al., 2010)。而棉铃虫成虫触角叶由约 60 个嗅小球组成(Skiri et al., 2005)。这种成虫幼虫触角叶的差别可能是棉铃虫幼虫触角相对简单,而棉铃虫成虫触角上有上万个感器(赵新成等,未发表数据)的反映,因此成虫触角叶体积较大,如烟芽夜蛾触角叶的相对体积为 5.87%(Kvello et al., 2009),高于棉铃虫幼虫的 3.2%。

后脑位于脑的腹侧,触角叶下方,咽下神经节通过围咽神经索与后脑连接。除了围咽神经索外,后脑还连接额神经和上唇神经,目前对于后脑的功能的确切功能还在探索。染色追踪标记显示,烟草天蛾(Kent and Hildebrand, 1987)、日本柞蚕 Antheraea yamamai(Asaoka, 2002)和棉铃虫(Tang et al., 2014)的幼虫口器上味觉受体神经元除投射到咽下神经节外,还通过围咽神经索投射到后脑。虽然成虫后脑与咽下神经节紧密融合在一起,且边界不明显,但是烟芽夜蛾(Kvello et al., 2006; Shields, 2009)和海灰翅夜蛾 Spodoptera littoralis (Popescu et al., 2013)成虫触角、口器上的味觉受体神经元投射到后脑,果蝇和蚊也有类似的味觉投射通路(Wang Z et al., 2004; Ignell and Hansson, 2005; Kwon et

al.,2011)。这些现象说明后脑在昆虫味觉感受和味觉行为调控中起重要的作用。

咽下神经节是昆虫的味觉中枢,由上颚神经节、下颚神经节和下唇神经节3个神经节融合而成。分别通过成对的上颚神经、下颚神经和下唇神经与上颚、下颚和下唇相连接。染色追踪标记显示,烟草天蛾幼虫口器附肢和口腔内味觉感器受体神经元(Kent and Hildebrand, 1987)、日本柞蚕(Asaoka, 2002)和棉铃虫(Tang et al., 2014)幼虫口器下颚上的栓锥感器、果蝇幼虫头部端器(terminal organ)和腹器(ventral organ)上的味觉受体神经元都可以投射到咽下神经节(Colomb et al., 2007)。除此之外,烟草天蛾幼虫头部上的一些机械感受神经元也投射到咽下神经节(Kent and Hildebrand, 1987)。

昆虫中枢神经系统是昆虫接收信息、处理信息和行为调控的中心。昆虫脑和咽下神经节主要接收来自头部的视觉、嗅觉、味觉和触觉等信息。外界不同的感觉信息传导至中枢神经系统不同的神经髓,各神经髓的相对体积与其相应行为的重要性以及复杂程度相关。不同的昆虫、不同发育阶段脑和咽下神经节的体积、位置及发育程度有所不同。本项研究用免疫组织化学方法阐述了棉铃虫脑和咽下神经节及脑内部各神经髓的形态和体积,并构建了棉铃虫5龄幼虫脑和咽下神经节的三维结构模型,为进一步研究脑和咽下神经节接收、处理、整合感觉信息及调控行为的机制奠定基础,也为进一步在发育生物学和比较生物学水平上研究昆虫提供了技术支撑和形态依据。

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